UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

2016-2017
season of events

## Thursdays at Noon: Poetry & Music

Monica Whicher, soprano
Steven Philcox, piano
Eric Domville, speaker

**November 3, 2016**
12:10 pm Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

## PROGRAM

*Six Lieder, Op. 67:* **Richard Strauss** (1864-1949)
Three Songs of Ophelia from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

I. Wie erkenn' ich mein Treulieb vor andern nun
II. Guten Morgen, 's ist Sankt Valentinstag
III. Sie trugen ihn auf der Bahre bloss

*Four Shakespeare Songs, Op. 31* **Erich Wolfgang Korngold** (1897-1957)

I. Desdemona's song
II. Under the greenwood tree
III. Blow, blow, thou winter wind
IV. When birds do sing

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## Biographies

### MONICA WHICHER, soprano

Style and musical elegance combined with an intuitive theatrical sense are the hallmarks of soprano Monica Whicher's performances on the concert and opera stage. She has performed with orchestras, opera companies and at chamber festivals across Canada and in the United States, Mexico, Europe and Asia with conductors including Helmuth Rilling, Peter Oundjian, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Franz Paul Decker, Steuart Bedford, Yannick Nezet-Seguin, Duane Wolff, Pinchas Zuckerman, Trevor Pinnick, Hervé Niquet, Andrew Parrott, Harry Bicket, Timothy Vernon and Alexander Weimann.

Along with all the major oratorio roles, operatic roles have included Thaïs (Massenet's *Thaïs*), the Countess (Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*), Pamina and Erste Dame (Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*), Zerlina (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*), Anna Maurant (Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*), Dido (Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*), The Governess (Britten's *Turn of the Screw*) and Female Chorus (Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*), with companies such as The Canadian Opera Company, Opera Atelier, Pacific Opera Victoria, Vancouver Opera, The Cleveland Opera, Opera in Concert and the Nürnberg International Chamber Music Festival.

Ms. Whicher was nominated for a Juno Award for *Singing Somers Theatre* (Centrediscs) as well as two Dora Mavor Moore Awards, and praised for her Naxos recording of *Castor et Pollux*. Her critically acclaimed portrayal of Mérope in Lully's *Persee* can be seen on the EuroArts/ Naxos DVD and she is featured on the Juno-Award winning CDs *Mozart's Magic Fantasy*, *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* and *Daydreams and Lullabies*. Recent recordings include *Lullabies and Carols for Christmas*, with harpist Judy Loman for Naxos, and *The Art Songs of Mykola Lysenko*, *The Art Songs of Yakov Stepovyi*, and *The Galicians*, all for the Ukrainian Art Song Project. She has been heard on CBC, NPR and the Bayerischer Rundfunk.

A former member of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio, Ms. Whicher studied at the Banff School of Fine Arts, the Britten-Pears School of Music (Aldeburgh, England), the Steans Institute (Ravinia Festival, USA), and was a recipient of the George London Award, Sullivan Foundation Grants, and a Canada Council Career Development Grant. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto, where she was a student of the renowned Canadian soprano Lois Marshall. Monica Whicher is on the Voice Faculty of the University of Toronto and the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music.

### STEVEN PHILCOX, piano

Pianist Steven Philcox is Associate Professor at the University of Toronto where he leads the collaborative piano program. One of Canada's finest collaborators, he is a frequent partner of Canada's vocal elite and continues to perform in leading concert halls across North America. From 1999-2010, Mr. Philcox was répétiteur, assistant conductor, and orchestral continuo player with the Canadian Opera Company where he had the privilege of working on more than 35 productions.

Increasingly recognized for his teaching, Mr. Philcox has given master classes throughout Canada and is regularly invited to mentor young artists at many of Canada's prestigious summer programs: Opera on the Avalon, Toronto Summer Music, and Vancouver International Song Institute (VISI). He has also held teaching positions at the Banff Centre's Twentieth Century Opera and Song Festival, the Chautauqua Summer Institute, the Center for Operatic Studies in Italy (COSI), and the Highlands Opera Studio in Haliburton, Ontario. Steven Philcox's most recent endeavor is the Canadian Art Song Project (CASP) which he co-directs with tenor Lawrence Wiliford. CASP's mission is to foster the development of new song through an annual commission and its performance as well as providing opportunities for Canadian artists to program and advocate the wealth of riches in the existing song literature. A graduate of the University of British Columbia, Mr. Philcox pursued his love of vocal literature for two summers at the Music Academy of the West, Santa Barbara, California. Subsequently, he went on to receive his master of music degree in vocal accompanying from the Manhattan School of Music.

### ERIC DOMVILLE, speaker

Eric Domville is a Professor Emeritus in English literature at the University of Toronto, where he taught at all levels for 30 years. Since his retirement, he has concentrated on the relationship between words and music in song and opera. Mr. Domville has given many pre-performance talks for the Canadian Opera Company and Opera Atelier, and delivered lectures to opera guilds across Ontario. For the past 20 years, Mr. Domville has acted as commentator for the Music and Poetry series at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music.

Currently, in addition to presenting opera courses at various institutions, he appears as a guest presenter of programs on classical music on the University of Toronto's radio station CIUT at 89.5 FM. Many of his articles on operas have appeared in the program books of the Canadian Opera Company.